Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0068] with the following amended paragraph:

[0068] RNA isolation and Northern blot analysis - Following treatment of cells under appropriate experimental conditions, total RNA was isolated using the RNA isolation kit from Stratagene (La Jolla, Calif., U.S.A.). Total RNA (10 mg) was run on a 1% agarose/formaldehyde gel and transferred to Duralon-UV membranes (Strategene, Calif., U.S.A.) and cross-linked with UV light. The membranes were hybridized overnight at 60 degree C with ^{32}P-labeled mouse osteocalcin cDNA probe, mouse lipoprotein lipase (LPL), mouse adipocyte protein 2 (aP2) PCR-generated probes, human 28S or 18S rRNA probes obtained from Geneka Biotechnology (Montreal, Quebec, Canada) and Maxim Biotech (San Francisco, Calif., U.S.A.), respectively. The PCR products were generated using primer sets synthesized by Invitrogen (Carlsbad, Calif., U.S.A.) with the following specifications: mouse aP2 gene (accession no. M13261); sense (75-95) 5'-CCAGGGAGAACCAAAGTTGA-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 1), antisense (362-383) 5'-CAGCACTCACCCACTTCTTTC-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 2), generating a PCR product of 309 base pairs. Mouse LPL (accession no. XM_134193); sense (1038-1058) 5'-GAATGAAGAAAACCCCAGCA-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 3), antisense (1816-1836) 5'-TGGGCCATTAGATTCCTCAC-3' (SEQ. ID. NO. 4), generating a PCR product of 799 base pairs. The PCR products were gel-purified and sequenced by the UCLA sequencing core, showing the highest similarity to their respective GenBank entries. Following hybridization, the blots were washed twice at room temperature with 2X SSC+0.1% SDS, and then twice at 60 degree C with 0.5X SSC+0.1% SDS, and exposed to X-ray film. The extent of gene induction was determined by densitometry.